



THE NEW MOTOR SHIP.—The Union Company's new motor ship "Aorangi" is the largest vessel of this type yet built, and her arrival in New Zealand was being anticipated with great interest. The photographs on this page were taken during the successful trial run on the Firth of Clyde.

Topical Press, photo, London

A NEW TERROR FOR MEN!—Now that women have taken up the noble art of self-defence, the mere male will have an additional reason for thinking twice before "popping the question." The prospect of being "counted out" as the result of any slight difference of opinion in the domestic circle should make even the boldest ponder long and earnestly before crossing the Rubicon.

ON BOARD THE "AORANGI."—Our left-hand photograph shows Captain R. Crawford, who is in command, shaking hands with Sir Douglas Brownrigg, Mr. Robert Sulzer, who designed the engines, is in the centre. Above are Mr. and Mrs. Charles Holdsworth (Mr. Holdsworth is chairman of the Union S.S. Company) and Sir Alexander M. Kennedy, chairman of the Fairfield Shipbuilding Company, the builders of the Aorangi.

IN THE MIRROR

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Penny Shopping Fares!

THE fact that there is a minimum fare of two-pence for adults travelling on the tramway systems of New Zealand's cities is grossly unfair and weighs specially against the women. For example the woman comes into the city from a distant suburb to shop. She commences her shopping round at a convenient centre; having discharged her business there she wishes to visit a different shop or institution which, although comparatively near, yet entails a hardship to reach by walking when burdened with parcels and accompanied with children.

She perforce enters a tram and is mulcted for a two-penny fare for herself plus half-fares for her children for a journey which in all probability is only a few hundred yards.

Similarly busy citymen have occasion many times during the day to call at different city offices—time is money and the civic transport service is utilized to cover the insignificant distance to be traversed; yet he is "rooked" for the full one-section charge for this privilege.

The charge is iniquitous and cannot be justified. Special city shopping tickets should be issued. It is high time that pressure be brought to bear to have this state of affairs remedied. I have always been surprised that the daily press, who are supposedly responsible to the public for protecting their interests, have not long before this raised no uncertain voice to abolish this blatant piece of extortion.

The times of highway (or as it is "tramway") robbery have vanished long ago in civilized countries.

Traffic Travails

IN the matter of the private buses the action of the Civic Administration in precipitating the present traffic war by their extraordinary petty action in turning the buses

off their stand in front of the Central Post Office merited a very severe vote of censure from the ratepayers. Retribution followed,

and now the Council wail over the diminished earnings of the tramways as a result of the bus proprietors hitting out from the should-



QUEEN ALEXANDRA'S EIGHTIETH BIRTHDAY.—The fact that Queen Alexandra recently celebrated her eightieth birthday lends interest to this hitherto unpublished photograph—the last taken of her as Queen of England. This photograph was taken in Venice, just prior to her receiving the news that King Edward the Seventh was seriously ill, which necessitated her return to England. The new series of articles which commence on page five of this issue contain many interesting sidelights as to the affection Queen Alexandra is held by the Royal Family.

Topical Press, photo, London

er in the good old English style. Did the Council think they were dealing with an alien race? It is extraordinary how long periods in office turn one-time capable administrators into beaureaucrats.

The present tearful appeal of the council to the ratepayers to support their own trams is hardly dignified and certainly benefits nobody. There are thousands of Auckland citizens who have reason to call down blessings on the heads of the enterprising bus-owners who have taken large commercial risks in opening up services to outlying suburbs—services that might well have proved financially unsuccessful, in which case the bus-owners would have had no popular urban services to help bear the loss, as the tramways have. Yet on the main routes the city should protect its own services. The Mayor would be well advised to take a leaf out of the Postmaster-General's book and reduce the tram fares. This will no doubt result in a large increase in passengers carried, which should more than compensate for the reduction in fares and produce a surplus above present figures. It will at the same time have the effect of driving off the buses from those thoroughfares on which they are not required—on which at present they can only thrive in view of the high tram fares charged.

Reprehensible Journalism

THAT two Ministers of the Crown should find it necessary within the space of a few days to correct erroneous statements attributed to them by the Press is hardly a matter of which New Zealand journalism can be proud.

Both Sir Maui Pomare and the Honourable A. D. McLeod have had recently to point out that statements which have appeared in our dailies were distortions of the facts, and while Mr. McLeod's refer-

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